

TO: Lawrence Williams, Chair  
Undergraduate Council

FROM: Richard Scamell  
Degree Programs Committee: Programs

SUBJECT: Proposals UC 10241 09S and UC 10269 09S

DATE: April 15, 2009

APPROVED APR 22 2009

The Committee met on Wednesday, April 1 to consider proposals UC 10241 09S and UC 10269 09S from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Participating in the discussion were committee members Betty Barr, Partha Krishnamurthy, Iain Morrison, and Richard Scamell. Thomas Behr attended the meeting as a guest. It should be noted that this report contains a number of changes from the original version of UC 10241 09S.

### **UC 10241 09S and UC 10269 09S: Proposals for a New Bachelor of Arts Major in Liberal Studies**

UC 10241 09S describes a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies program of study intended to offer students an interdisciplinary, liberal arts major built upon the successful completion of requirements for a minor in three different fields, a minimum of two of which must come from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Two of the three minors must come from programs that also offer a major<sup>1</sup>.

Students must file degree plans for each of the three minors and complete the 15 or 18 credit hours as required and all other requirements, including grade point averages, for each of the three minors. In addition they must take a reading and writing intensive capstone course in Liberal Studies (Senior Seminar, ILAS 4350)<sup>2</sup>, or in one of the minor fields constituting the major upon approval of the Director of Liberal Studies and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Courses taken for the minor cannot be counted toward either of the other two minors constituting the major. Since the program is interdisciplinary in nature, students are not required to fulfill the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences requirement for an additional nine hours across three fields outside of the major<sup>3</sup>. Otherwise, students must meet all other core, college and university requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree.

The Degree Programs Committee offers the following possible sample programs for students who wish to pursue the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies degree.

#### **Coursework Constant in the Degree Program**

Core – 42 hours

Language – 6 sophomore hours (can be tested out, can be part of a Minor)

Senior Seminar – 3 hours (can be completed in a Minor capstone course)

**Maximum “non-Minor” hours required = 51 hours**

#### **Example A – A “Pre-law” Model**

1) Minor in Political Science – 18 hours

2) Minor in History – 15 hours

3) Minor in English – 15 hours

Total Hours to Complete 3 Minors = 48 hours

**Maximum hours required = 99 hours**

<sup>1</sup> Programs without an existing minor will be asked to create a minor before a student can choose to minor in that field.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix C contains a sample syllabus of ILAS 4350. This course has been approved by the Degree Programs: CBM 003 Committee.

<sup>3</sup> Normally all students earning a Bachelor or Arts degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences must complete, in addition to the Core, nine hours of coursework in three fields of study offered by the College that are outside of the student's major. This requirement is in addition to the Bachelor of Arts degree's foreign language requirement. UC 10269 09S waives this requirement for Liberal Studies majors only since the interdisciplinary nature of this major ensures the breadth intended for the College's Bachelor of Arts students.

**Example B – A “Global Business Communications” Model**

- 1) Minor in Global Business – 15 hours
  - 2) Minor in Communications – 18 hours
  - 3) Minor in Spanish for Business – 15 hours
- Total Hours to Complete 3 Minors = 48 hours  
**Maximum hours required = 99 hours**

**Example C – A “Business Emphasis” Model**

- 1) Minor in Business – 18 hours (plus 9 hours of prerequisites)
  - 2) Minor in Economics – 18 hours
  - 3) Minor in English – 15 hours
- Total Hours to Complete 3 Minors = 60 hours  
**Maximum hours required = 111 hours**

**Example D – A “Language Emphasis” Model**

- 1) Minor in Spanish – 15 hours
  - 2) Minor in French – 15 hours
  - 3) Minor in World Cultures and Literatures – 18 hours
- Total Hours to Complete 3 Minors = 48 hours  
**Maximum hours required = 99 hours**

In each of the foregoing cases, completion of the two freshman language courses would satisfy ten hours of electives. Thus a student in the Pre-law model would be required to take an additional eleven hours of electives and a student in the Global Business Communications model and in the Language Emphasis model would also be required to take an additional eleven hours of electives. On the other hand, a student in the Business Emphasis model would have no additional elective hours to complete as a result of having completed the nine hours of prerequisites for the minor in Business. In addition, in each of the foregoing cases, courses required for minors very well may satisfy core requirements and thus open up more electives. Appendix A lists courses that satisfy the core requirement in math reasoning that may satisfy respective minor requirements. Appendix B lists courses that satisfy the writing in the disciplines core requirement which might possibly also satisfy a requirement in a minor.

Three advantages were cited as accompanying the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies major.

1. It would attract current Undergraduate Scholar students approaching credit hour limits in that program, who have taken a range of courses across the College curriculum but have not yet declared a major. There are typically 4000 students in this category in a given year.
2. It would attract students who have encountered roadblocks to completing the requirements for the major of their first choice (e.g., because of grade point average requirements, proficiency exam requirements, audition requirements, or similar issues), but who would otherwise satisfy requirements for the minor in that program.
3. It would be attractive to current and incoming students who are looking to get a broad-based liberal arts education in preparation for a wide range of professional pursuits, particularly considering the option of incorporating a technical field as one of the minors.

The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies major builds upon existing academic and administrative structures with a minimum of new staffing and organization requirements. A program director, anticipated as a 50% clinical position in Year 1 and 100% thereafter, and an undergraduate advisor who would also handle some administrative tasks, minimal facilities, equipment and supplies, are the only costs envisioned in the five-year projection. Costs over the first five years of the new program are anticipated to be in the range of \$475,000. Enrollment projections in terms of headcount and full-time student equivalent (FTSE) for the first five years of the program are expected to be:

## UC 10279 09S

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5
Headcount	250	500	750	1000	1000
FTSE	100	200	300	400	400

### Recommendation

The Degree Programs Committee unanimously endorses both UC 10241 09S and UC 10269 09S.

### Appendix A – Courses Satisfying the Math Reasoning Requirement That Might Also Satisfy Respective Minor Requirements

- MUSI 2210: Music Theory III
- MUSI 2214: Techniques of Music Since 1900
- PHIL 1321: Logic I
- POLS 3316: Quantitative Methods
- PSYC 3301: Introduction to Psychological Statistics

### Appendix B - Courses Satisfying the Writing in the Discipline Requirement That Might Also Satisfy Respective Minor Requirements

- ANTH 2304: Introduction to Language and Culture
- ANTH 3348: Anthropology of Religion
- ANTH 3361: Human Origins
- BIOL 3311: Genetics Laboratory
- COMM 1302: Introduction to Communication Theory
- COMD 2380: Professional Writing in Communication Disorders
- ECON 3334: Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
- ENGL 2330: Writing in the Discipline of English
- ENGI 2304: Technical Communications
- GENB 4350: Business Law and Ethics
- HIST 3351: Work and Family Life in Modern Europe
- MUSI 3303: Popular Music in the Americas Since 1840
- MUSI 4366: Music in the United States
- PHIL 1334: Introduction to the Mind
- POLS 2340: Greek Classics
- POLS 2341: Renaissance Classics
- POLS 3310: Introduction to Political Theory
- POLS 3311: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- POLS 3313: Introduction to International Relations
- POLS 3314: Introduction to Public Administration
- POLS 3315: International Organization
- POLS 3318: Introduction to Public Policy
- PSYC 2344: Cultural Psychology
- PSYC 3310: Industrial-Organization Psychology
- PSYC 4321: Abnormal Psychology
- RELS 2335: Rabbinical Biblical Interpretation
- SOC 2310: Social Problems
- SOC 2325: American Minority Peoples
- SOC 3330: Introduction to Social Psychology
- SOC 3351: Social Class and Mobility in America
- SOC 3357: Urban Sociology

**Appendix C: Sample Syllabus**

**ILAS 4350: Selected Topics  
Senior Seminar**

Professor: Dr. Thomas Behr  
Email: [thomasbehr@earthlink.net](mailto:thomasbehr@earthlink.net)  
Office: Dept. of History, 541 Agnes Arnold Hall  
Hours: M, W 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. and by appointment

**Course Description and Learning Objectives:**

At the end of your undergraduate career, with a major in Liberal Studies, also known as the Liberal Arts, we return to the basic questions of learning and life. Why Liberal Arts? What is the connection between Liberal Arts and the Great Books? What is a "Great Book"? As one commentator has pointed out, liberal learning is a life-long process. Senior Seminar is aimed at giving you the experience and skills with reading, thinking, writing and discussing that will help you on whatever your path is through life.

ILAS Senior Seminar satisfies the Capstone requirement for the B.A. degree with a major in Liberal Studies. We will be reading about 75 pages per week and writing short "pre-views" each week on the assigned reading. Class will be seminar format, that is discussion based on the text at hand: what it says, how it says it, and what difference it makes.

**Required Texts :**

- Plato, *The Apology*
- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics (selections)*
- Cicero, *On Duties*
- Aquinas, *Summa Theologica (selections)*
- Machiavelli, *The Prince*
- Shakespeare, *King Lear*
- Voltaire, *Candide*
- Goethe, *The Sorrows of Young Werther*
- Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*
- Tocqueville, *Democracy in America (selections)*

**Supplemental Texts:**

- *The World's Great Speeches*
- M. Adler, *How to Read a Book*
- M. Adler, *How to Speak, How to Listen*